

SENATOR DAWN BUCKINGHAM VIDEO

PROPERTY TAX BILLS

HELLO FRIENDS THIS IS DR. DAWN BUCKINGHAM, YOUR STATE SENATOR FOR DISTRICT 24.

SINCE MY FIRST DAY IN THE TEXAS SENATE I HAVE FOUGHT FOR FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE LIMITED GOVERNMENT.

I SUPPORT LOW TAXES - MINIMAL GOVERNMENT INTRUSION INTO OUR DAILY LIVES - AND MAKING SURE GOVERNMENT SERVES YOU, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

THAT INCLUDES PROVIDING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO MY CONSTITUENTS - WHICH WILL ALWAYS BE ONE OF MY TOP PRIORITIES.

IT'S WELL KNOWN THAT OUR CURRENT PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM TOO OFTEN PLACES AN UNDUE BURDEN ON PROPERTY OWNERS.

THAT IS WHY I HAVE FILED SEVERAL BILLS TO REFORM THE PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM IN TEXAS.

I HAVE FILED THREE BILLS TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD AND EMPOWER PROPERTY OWNERS IN TEXAS WHO PROTEST THEIR APPRAISALS.

MANY PROPERTY OWNERS ARE CURRENTLY DISCOURAGED FROM PROTESTING THEIR ASSESSMENT FOR FEAR THAT AN APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD COULD INCREASE THE ASSESSED VALUE OF THEIR PROPERTY DURING A HEARING IF THEY PROTEST THEIR TAX BILL.

THIS IS WRONG AND FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED. IT IS COMPARABLE TO YOU CONTESTING A SPEEDING TICKET AND THEN HAVING THE FINE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALLEGED EXCESSIVE SPEED DRIVEN BE INCREASED EVEN MORE - JUST BECAUSE YOU FOUGHT IT IN COURT.

I HAVE FILED A BILL TO CORRECT THIS BY PREVENTING PROPERTY VALUES FROM INCREASING IN A PROTEST HEARING WITHOUT AGREEMENT OF THE PROPERTY OWNER.

SECOND, PROPERTY OWNERS WHO PROTEST THEIR APPRAISALS CURRENTLY HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF COMPARABLE PROPERTIES, OR "COMPS," USED AS EVIDENCE BY AN APPRAISAL DISTRICT MAY ALSO BE UNDER PROTEST.

THAT'S NOT FAIR. YOU SHOULD KNOW WHICH OF YOUR "COMPS" HAVE BEEN PROTESTED - OR ARE UNDER CURRENT PROTEST - WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR PROTEST HEARING.

A BILL I HAVE FILED WOULD PREVENT APPRAISAL DISTRICTS FROM USING AS EVIDENCE PROPERTIES WHOSE VALUE HAS BEEN PROTESTED - OR IS CURRENTLY UNDER PROTEST - IN YOUR PROTEST HEARING UNLESS THEY NOTIFY YOU OF THIS IMPORTANT FACT. CURRENTLY YOU ARE NOT PROVIDED WITH THIS INFORMATION.

THIRD, I BELIEVE A PROPERTY OWNER SHOULD NEVER BE FACED WITH EVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO PAY A FEE TO PROTEST THEIR VALUE OF THEIR PROPERTY.

FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS, THE COMPTROLLER HAS SURVEYED TEXANS WHO CHOSE TO PROTEST THEIR PROPERTY VALUES WHETHER THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY SUCH A FEE.

AND GUESS WHAT? THE RESULTS WERE OBVIOUS AND OVERWHELMING.

MORE THAN 90% OF TEXANS HAVE OPPOSED SUCH A FEE - YEAR AFTER YEAR AFTER YEAR - AND I DON'T BELIEVE THEY NEED TO BE ASKED AGAIN.

THAT'S WHY I HAVE FILED A BILL - AND A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION - TO BAN THIS FROM EVER OCCURRING.

MY LEGISLATION WOULD PREVENT IN BOTH STATUTE AND THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION A FEE FROM EVER BEING ASSESSED AGAINST A PROPERTY OWNER SEEKING TO PROTEST THEIR PROPERTY VALUE.

I HAVE ALSO FILED A BILL TO INCREASE TAXPAYER INVOLVEMENT IN THE ROLLBACK PROCESS.

RIGHT NOW, WHEN YOUR CITY OR COUNTY TRIES TO RAISE YOUR TAXES BEYOND WHAT THE LAW ALLOWS, THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP YOUR TAXES DOWN IS TO PETITION FOR WHAT IS KNOWN AS A "ROLLBACK ELECTION."

THIS PETITION PROCESS IS BURDENSOME AND BORDERLINE IMPOSSIBLE IN SOME OF TEXAS' LARGEST CITIES AND COUNTIES.

THERE IS NO BIGGER FAN OF TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL THAN ME, SO LET ME GIVE YOU A SIMPLE EXAMPLE OF HOW HIGH THE PETITION THRESHOLD IS.

TO SUCCESSFULLY REQUEST A ROLLBACK ELECTION IN SEVERAL TEXAS CITIES AND COUNTIES, YOU COULD HAVE EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO ATTENDED THE 2018 CLASS 6A DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AT AT&T STADIUM IN ARLINGTON -- 42,363 PEOPLE -- SIGN A ROLLBACK PETITION AND STILL NOT HAVE ENOUGH SIGNATURES.

MY BILL WOULD REQUIRE AUTOMATIC ROLLBACK ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON THE UNIFORM ELECTION DATE IN NOVEMBER, OR ANY TIME A CITY OR A COUNTY EXCEEDS ITS ROLLBACK RATE, ELIMINATING THE CURRENT PETITION REQUIREMENT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH STATE LEADERSHIP AND MY COLLEAGUES IN THE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT THESE COMMON-SENSE PROPERTY TAX REFORMS DURING THE 2019 SESSION.

YOU ELECTED ME TO HAVE YOUR BACK HERE AT THE STATE CAPITOL AND I'M FIGHTING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

I AM BLESSED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT DISTRICT 24 IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY - AND THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS.